

Application No. 09/716,924
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REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the present application.

Claims 5, 6, 25 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for certain specified antecedent basis problems. In response, Applicant has amended the affected claims to correct the specified antecedent basis issues.

Claims 1-2, 13-14, 25-26 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In response, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims 1-2, 13-14, 25-26 and 35-36.

Claims 3-12, 15-24, 27-34 and 37-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicant has amended claims 3-12, 15-24, 27-34 and 37-45 to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: 1 December 2004

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